

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RFILLING:CJ

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE

INR/DDR/RAF:CTHORNE

INR/DDC/OP:FDETARR

S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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R 201447Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T STATE 178934

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT PINR SU

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF NIMEIRI REGIME

REFS: A) KHARTOUM 1988; B) CAIRO 9112

1. DEPT MOST APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR TIMELY AND USEFUL INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF JULY 2-3 COUP ATTEMPT (REFTEL A).

2. SEVERAL RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS GIVE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT GOS EFFORTS TO SUFFOCATE ATTEMPTED COUP MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED BY ONLY A SMALL MARGIN WITH NIMEIRI'S ONE HOUR PREMATURE ARRIVAL AT KHARTOUM AIRPORT BEING PERHAPS THE DECISIVE FACTOR. SLUGGISH INITIAL PERFORMANCE OF SUDANESE MILITARY BEING ATTRIBUTED TO FRIDAY HOLIDAY, FACT THAT IN SOME CASES WEAPONS HAD BEEN SECURED, AND/OR DESIRE TO SMOKE OUT AND LIQUIDATE OPPONENTS. WHILE ALL OF THESE COULD BE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN EXPLAINING LENGTH OF TIME NECESSARY TO SUPPRESS COUP, IT NONETHELESS APPEARS THAT COUP WAS EX-

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CEPTIONALLY WELL-ORGANIZED, FUNDED AND MUST HAVE RECRUITED

SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SYMPATHIZERS WITHIN SUDAN. WHILE LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT NO DOUBT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN COUP PLANNING, WE HAVE HEARD THAT IN GOS REPORTS ON COUP NOW CIRCULATING WITHIN CLOSED GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, GREATER ROLE IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO LOCAL OPPOSITION GROUPS.

3. WITH US GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT IN SUDAN LIKELY TO GROW WE FEEL OBLIGED TO GIVE VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO ASSESSING SURVIVABILITY OF NIMEIRI REGIME AND IF HE FALLS DETERMINING WHAT WOULD BE POLICIES OF SUCCESSOR REGIME TOWARD US, PARTICULARLY AS THESE WOULD EFFECT AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

4. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR SUBMITTING, NO LATER THAN JULY 30, COUNTRY TEAM'S BEST EVALUATION OF POLITICAL OUTLOOK. THIS REPORT MAY COVER WHATEVER FACTORS YOU CONSIDER RELEVANT BUT SHOULD INCLUDE YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE AND ON REFTEL B. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARMED FORCES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE178934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RFILLING:CJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760279-0197
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760740/aaaabivb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 1988, 76 CAIRO 9112
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF NIMEIRI REGIME
TAGS: PINT, PINR, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006